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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 18, 1900.

AN IMPORTANT ELECTION.

There appears to be much apathy, and very little interest, over the election which is to take place in this city on Saturday, Jan. 20th. There seems also to be a misunderstanding in relation to it, on the part of the comparatively few people who are concerned as to its results. The impression prevails among them that the election is to decide whether the Board of Education may issue new bonds, for the purpose of obtaining funds to carry on the district schools to the end of the current term.

Whatever is the purpose for which the election is called, it should be a matter of concern to every taxpayer in the city. It is of importance also to every parent having children of school age. All who have the right to vote should certainly go to the polls on Saturday and cast their ballots according to their respective views on the subject to be decided. That they may do so intelligently, it will be necessary for them to understand the exact situation and what the election will decide.

The Board of Education have found that the funds at their command will not suffice to pay the expenses of the public schools, to the full end of the present semester. In order to continue them for the proper time, about \$20,000 will be needed. It is proposed to borrow that amount. It can be obtained without interest. But authority to make the loan must be given to the Board by the taxpayers, in the manner provided by law. No bonds are to be issued.

How is the debt to be paid? It is expected that with the increased valuation of property in this city, enough money will be at the disposition of the Board in the next year or two to discharge the indebtedness without increasing the tax rate. Of course the future will determine this. The money will have to come out of the taxes in any event, but the Board takes the ground that this can be done without further bonds and without higher taxes.

The schools having been already closed for two weeks longer than the ordinary vacation, if the necessary funds are not forthcoming through the proposed loan, a loss of about five weeks will be entailed in the work of the schools, as they will have to be closed about three weeks earlier than the end of the term. This will seriously interfere with the school course, with the matter of promotions, and with other educational affairs under the regulations that have been adopted. Without taking space to go into detail on these points, it will easily be perceived that a gap of five weeks in the course of study prepared for the schools will seriously interfere with the operations of the system.

Now, it is for the taxpayers of this city to decide whether the schools are to be continued to the full end of the term, or whether they shall be closed before it is out. The question to be decided by vote on Saturday is, shall the Board of Education be authorized to borrow \$20,000 for the purpose explained or not? All who want the schools continued for the regulation time should vote "Yes," those who do not want the necessary money borrowed should vote "No." It is a momentous question, and each citizen should cast a ballot one way or the other. Let every man be persuaded in his own mind. Look the matter over carefully, and decide according to the best interests of the community and the cause of education, which is of the utmost importance.

THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY.

We agree with the statement that the great question to be decided in the present controversy, is the extent of the power vested in the State Board of Health and in the Board of Education of this city. The merits or demerits of vaccination form but an incident in this connection.

It will be conceded, we presume, that those bodies have no authority but that which is conferred upon them by law. The latest legislation on the subject now of great local interest, is to be found in the laws of Utah of 1899. In chapter 45 will be found the health and quarantine laws which the boards of health are empowered to enforce. They provide for quarantine regulations and reports of contagious diseases, and for permits to attend schools when children have been exposed to the diseases which are therein specified. The boards of health are given jurisdiction "in all matters pertaining to the preservation of the health of those in attendance upon the public and private schools in the State." But the following duties are imposed upon them in defining that jurisdiction:

"(1) To exclude from said schools any person, including teachers, suffering with any contagious or infectious disease, whether acute or chronic, or liable to convey such disease to those in attendance; (2) To make regular inspections of all school buildings and premises as to their hygienic condition and to report on forms that shall be

furnished by the State Board of Health."

Observe that this law not only fails to confer any authority upon boards of health to compel vaccination, but was passed by a Legislature that refused to enact a measure for that purpose which was urged by those who are now attempting to carry it into effect without legislation.

Children may be excluded from the schools who are liable to convey any contagious or infectious disease to those in attendance. That is sensible. It is necessary to the general health. Children who are not so liable may not be excluded. An unvaccinated child who has not been exposed is not so liable. The vaccinated child, being in a condition of disease, to wit, cowpox, is much nearer to the condition which would warrant exclusion than the other class. It is not claimed, however, by the opponents of unlawful exclusion, that vaccinated children should not be admitted. The arbitrary measures are all on the side of the advocates of compulsion.

Reference to the Revised Statutes, which are quoted to prove the tremendous powers conferred on the State Board of Health, shows on careful reading that they are in harmony with what we have quoted from the later law. They do not endow that body with any authority which is contrary to law. The law specifies the kind of quarantine and sanitary rules which they are directed to enforce. Vaccination is not among them.

Now let us look with the eyes of common sense for a little while upon the proposition that the Board of Health may make any regulation it pleases, on its own notions of what may be "necessary for the preservation of public health." It is actually argued by an intelligent editor, that this includes the power to enforce vaccination upon school children, or bar them out from the attendance at school which the law makes compulsory. If that is not the height of absurdity, does it not reach very closely to the top thereof? By the same reasoning, the same Board could prevent every child from attending school that does not swallow a dose of calomel, or of sulphur and molasses, or of any other remedy or preventive that it might "deem necessary for the preservation of public health." If one surgical operation must be submitted to as a prerequisite to attending school, any other operation decided upon by that board could also be enforced.

The Board of Health cannot reasonably or lawfully require anything as a condition for attendance in the public schools but those which the law imposes. That body is a creature of the law. It is a servant of the people. It is putting on airs. It is assuming the position of a master. More than that, its attitude is despotic and defiant. Failing to obtain the tyrannical power which it desired from the Legislature it is clothing itself with that authority by inference.

We are surprised to find anyone who recognizes the constitutional and natural rights of the individual, encouraging such excessive and monstrous actions by sophistry and the perversion of statutory provisions, ignoring the limits that the law prescribes. We invite attention to an article on the constitutional and legal side of this matter which appears in another part of this issue of the Deseret News. It should be read and digested by all parties interested in this controversy.

CLEAN UP.

Sanitary Inspector Lees, if he is successful in his efforts at having neglected backyards and vacant lots thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, will have accomplished more for the stamping out of disease in this city, than all the health officers who seem to care about nothing but the propagation of cowpox among healthy people. Whether their inactivity in every other direction is to be ascribed to incompetency or something else matters not.

We hope the sanitary inspector will be sustained in his efforts, by public officers and by private citizens. There are some vacant lots owned by people not residing here, and it might be difficult to enforce any rules of sanitation on such property, but it would pay the city to have the necessary work done at the public expense in such places. For to rational persons it is perfectly clear that clean houses, pure air, pure water, good food, and so on, are the real preventives of diseases of whatever name.

KEEP THE WORD OF WISDOM.

It is evident that the world is passing through a period of epidemics. Reports received by the surgeon general of the United States Marine hospital show that smallpox, yellow fever, cholera, and the plague are abroad in the earth. Quite frequently war, pestilence and famine go together, or attend one another, as hunger and death followed the "pale horse" in the Apocalypse, and the present is no exception to the rule. The reports show that during the latter part of December smallpox appeared in no less than thirteen different States. Besides in Utah, cases occurred in the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indian Territory, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Thirty cases were reported in Indian Territory, 21 in Louisiana, 12 in Illinois, and 10 in Virginia. In all, 106 cases, with four deaths, were reported up to the end of the week ending January 6. This is a remarkably low percentage of death rate, indicating that the disease has not appeared in this country in its malignant form, or that it has not found conditions favorable to becoming malignant.

The reports from foreign countries show 311 deaths of smallpox in Brazil, 14 in India, 15 in Russia, and a smaller number in Belgium, Greece, Spain and Turkey.

Twenty-nine deaths of cholera were reported from India in the latter part of November, and deaths from yellow fever occurred in Brazil, Colombia and Cuba, while the plague carried off 215 victims in India, and 2 in Hawaii. Later advices indicate that the plague is on an increase both in Hawaii and the Philippines.

The most stringent sanitary rules have been adopted by various health

boards, to combat the plague, and a recommendation has been given by Surgeon General Wyman, of the Marine hospital, which deserves more than a passing notice. It is to the effect that persons should not be vaccinated at or on route from places infected, "as such practice increases the liability to plague infection." Whether this rule should not also be followed with regard to smallpox, it would be well to consider in connection with the burning or rather arm-scratching, question of the day.

The appearance upon the earth of him that goes forth on a "pale horse," with death and havoc in the train, should be a reminder to the Latter-day Saints of the promises dependent upon the observance of the Word of Wisdom. It should make them consider whether they have followed the teachings given them in this matter. The promise is that "all Saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, shall receive health . . . find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge . . . and I, the Lord, give unto them a promise, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them." Now this is something that can be put to the practical test. It is not a theory of which different opinions may be held. The truth of these promises may be demonstrated by the Saints. It is one of the practical teachings given to the people, easy to understand and as easy to carry out. Test the matter and see if the promises of the Almighty can be safely relied on.

FOR PEACE.

It seems a movement for peace has actually started in Great Britain. It is headed by Leonard Henry Courtney, M. P., and among its supporters are Stephen Gladstone, the deans of Winchester and Durham, Herbert Spencer and some other men and women of prominence. The object of the movement is to exercise influence on Parliament in the direction of a speedy termination of the Transvaal war.

This movement is as yet in its incipency and does not appear any larger than the cloud that Elijah saw on Mount Carmel. Still as a small cloud may be followed by a great shower, so this peace movement may in time decide the fate of nations. The majority of the people are not in favor of listening to peace propositions, but there is a respectable minority, that will be heard at the proper moment.

Everything depends upon the turn of events. Should the British before long gain decided advantages, the people might feel that the military honor of the nation had been saved, and overtures for peace might be listened to. Then the United States might be induced to offer her friendly services as mediator, or some other means of opening negotiations might be found. No doubt the English people have by this time found that the conquest of the South African republics is a more expensive affair than at first calculated, and this fact will be made the most of by the friends of peace.

Should, on the other hand, the British meet with further reverses, the probability is that war would be prolonged. England cannot afford to withdraw from South Africa, defeated and disgraced. The general belief is that it would be a crime to doubt England's ability to subdue the Boers, even as the Boer mutiny was quelled, and as long as this belief is general, the outlook for a peaceful settlement, prior to some brilliant British victory, is not bright.

SMALLPOX FACTS.

Dr. Edward Haughton, in the October number of The Westminster Review, gives some data regarding smallpox, which are deemed of general interest. He quotes authority for the statement that the disease generally occurs during the cold season, and declines with the arrival of warm weather. One of his authorities is Dr. Carl Spinzig, of St. Louis, Mo., who in giving his hospital experience of smallpox, says:

"Smallpox is a disease pertaining to the climate of the temperate season, both in Europe and America."

Dr. Colin La Varole corroborates this statement:

"The mortality from variola reduces to the minimum in the months of June, July and August. In September it rises again, and continues so during the winter months. In the spring it again declines, reaching the minimum in the summer. In the Lancet of June 18, 1877, it is stated that smallpox epidemics in London during the past thirty-seven years bear testimony that the deaths from this cause decline with the advent of warm summer weather; and that the number of cases of smallpox in London, during the month of December, while there were only 6 in the month of August. The epidemic of Paris began in October, 1879, reaching its maximum in December, then gradually declined until March, when it ceased. Deaths, 7,418."

Concerning the New York epidemic in 1871, it is stated that it was at its minimum in January, gradually reaching the maximum in April. Then it declined and reached a low mark at the end of November, and then rose until the end of the year.

The St. Louis epidemic, 1859-70, commenced in January and lasted until May. It commenced again in November and lasted till the early part of May.

The New Orleans epidemic started from January and reached a maximum in March; then there was a gradual decline, and in July, August and September the disease was at its minimum. The following November and December it rose again.

In the Philadelphia epidemic it was noted that normal evaporation was effectively interfered with by a stagnant atmosphere, which was deficient in the usual percentage of ozone, and hence favoring regressive action.

After considering these facts Dr. Spinzig draws these conclusions:

1. "Variola is dependent on general causes common to other diseases, and as an epidemic is dependent upon meteorological variations, irregular at the locality and season.

2. "The eruptive characteristics by which variola is recognized are but transitory phenomena, and are necessitated (fixed) results of the operation of physical laws.

3. "The disease of specific infection cannot be supported, and contagion is only possible by actual inoculation with smallpox pus, the effects of which do not differ from those produced by inoculation with other decayed animal matter."

4. "Vaccination is tantamount to inoculation, and constitutes a specific poison, a criminal offense to human health and life, and is statistically proved to afford no protective or mitigating power over smallpox, and scientifically in the nature of the case it cannot possess any."

5. "Prophylaxis and amelioration are reasonable to insist on sanitary measures that promote health in general."

These were the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Spinzig about twenty years ago. Dr. Haughton now evidently accepts them and observes that these propositions throw down the gauntlet not only to theories of preventive and cure, but also to the "Pharisaical conception of the general propagation of epidemics by personal contact, or the aerial convection of imaginary microbes." He concludes by a rebuke to the medical men who "degrade the science of medicine, and bring laws intended to preserve public health under the contempt of the people."

A PLAIN STATEMENT.

The National Magazine for January, published at Boston, Mass., has an article on current events and famous people, in which appears a splendid portrait of Hon. B. H. Roberts, and one of his daughter Ada. Some particulars of an interview with that Congressman are given in the Magazine, and that no mistake might be made as to the position taken by Mr. Roberts on the questions now in dispute, he furnished over his own signature a brief statement, which is published with his portrait, and we copy it, verbatim, as follows. It needs no comment:

House of Representatives, U. S., Washington, D. C., Dec. 18, 1899.

Joe Mitchell Chapple:

A representative of your magazine handed me today your letter in which you ask, (1) "Would you vote for a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy?" (2) "Do you stand on the issue against your own infirmities?" I would say that I would vote for the amendment on the rights of free religious belief as an American citizen standing ready and amenable to the laws of the country? Answering your second question, I would say that I would have no particular objection to voting for a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy. Not at all so far as affecting the matter of civil rights for any national legislation so far as Utah is concerned.

Relative to your second question I would say that it is not a question of religious belief, but of religious rights at all. The simple question is, whether a person possessed of all the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution for a member of Congress, and who is guilty of no offense which acts as a disqualification for the office he holds, ought to be denied the right of being sworn in, and exercising the functions of his office. That is the whole question. Very truly yours,

B. H. Roberts

The wool market seems to have found a place on the sliding scale for a time, judging by the preliminary drop in London.

St. Louisans may be partial to mixed drinks, but they object to the mixture furnished by the Chicago sewers. Who wouldn't?

Commercial drummers have started a small presidential boom for Judge Van Wyck of New York. It is not likely to have a long roll.

What is Aguinaldo doing now-a-days? He seems to be not only lost sight of in the news from the Philippines, but also out of the public mind.

Those qualified voters who paid a property tax in 1899 can vote in the bond election on Saturday next. Non-taxpayers have no right to the ballot on that occasion.

The city's ordinances and regulations on sanitary matters are quite sufficient for the needs of the municipality. What ought to be given the public is a consistent enforcement of those rules.

The spirits of the British public were revived greatly today, by the definite announcement that a large portion of Gen. Buller's force had crossed over the Tugela river. But Lord Roberts's achievement giving the news also foreshadowed heavy fighting soon, hence the prolonged anxiety.

It is now said that Gen. Wheeler is coming home because Gen. Otis would not let him get to a position where there was more fighting to do. Certainly "Fighting Joe" never went to the Philippines to do police duty. He can have it livelier in Congress.

The reports in the Roberts case probably will be submitted on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, when Mr. Roberts will be given another opportunity of addressing the House. Since it is freely asserted that the members of the House have made up their minds how they will vote, the allowing of further arguments seems not to be with

any desire to obtain more light on the questions involved.

Now it is said that an understanding exists with Great Britain, by which the United States can disregard the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty and take full control of the proposed Isthmian canal. There is nothing unlikely in the suggestion, for Britain now has no special reasons for insisting on co-ownership. She can reach her Pacific coasts of America quicker via Canada than by the canal, and for any emergency with warships is as near to Australia waters as she would like to be necessary. The only value of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty to Great Britain is to use it to secure some concessions, such as those affecting the Canada-Alaska boundary line.

There is really a movement in north-western Mexico for a new republic. The Yaquis have declared their independence, formed a provisional government, and checked the advance of the Mexican troops. Now they issue an appeal to native-born Americans, promising them protection, and indirectly inviting assistance from those to whom the appeal is directed. If it were not for a few other wars to divert attention, the Yaquis might get some assistance from reckless and venturesome spirits on this side of the Mexican line, but there is grave doubt now of their securing to any important degree the aid they ask. The Yaquis and Mexicans probably will have the fight between themselves.

IN MEMORY OF M'GLYNN.

Boston Transcript.
Dr. McGlynn did not recant any of the doctrines which he had held, but, on the contrary, almost his first public utterances were in defense of the "holy cause"—his crusade against poverty, or rather against conditions that tolerate poverty—of which he considered himself and his followers as martyrs. He obeyed the mandate of the Church which placed him over a small congregation instead of his former one, seeking no reason why he should not submit to the discipline of the church so long as it did not require him to renounce what he believed to be the truth. His influence on the Roman Catholic church in America will be felt in future, for the church itself has recognized that the conditions to be dealt with in America are favorable to liberal thought.

Troy Press.
The countless victims of poverty lose a noble, brilliant, whole-hearted friend in the passing of Edward McGlynn. Farewell, good, loving friend of the poor! Possibly, as the poet hath said, "All now thou knowest and nought can tell."

Cleveland Plain Dealer.
If the eyes of all England were not fixed on the fight in South Africa which threatens the very life of the British empire, the London press would hardly view, without alarm, the disquieting reports of Russian activity in central Asia, which indicate that the long threatened movement against Herat, the so-called key to India, has been begun. Cabigrams, one at least coming from St. Petersburg, say that the Russian troops are already in motion, and that the czar's Transcasian forces are being mobilized. These reports, if authentic, show clearly enough that in the czar's opinion, "The pear is ripe," and that the time has come for the long and carefully planned descent on the British dominions in India.

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